

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendment

Claims 1-17, 19-22, and 24 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9 and 10 are currently amended. Claims 8-12, 19 and 24 are withdrawn. Claims 18 and 23 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 25 and 26 are added. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9 and 10 are amended for grammatical errors. Support can be found in the specification, pg 27, lines 1-7. New claims 25-26 find support in the specification, pg 27, lines 1-7.

No new matter is believed to have been added. An action on the merits and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Restriction

The claims have been divided into Groups as follows:

- Group I: Claims 1-7, 13-17, 20, 21, 22, drawn to peptides.
- Group II: Claims 8-11, 13-17, drawn to nucleic acids/vectors/host cells/method of making.
- Group III: Claim 12, drawn to antibodies.
- Group IV: Claims 19, 24, drawn to a method of treatment with a peptide.
- Group V: Claim 19, drawn to a method of treatment with nucleic acids.

Two elections of species are also required if Group I or II is elected,

If Group I is elected:

- a) Election of one specific peptide recited in Claim 2; and
- b) Election of *either* the peptide of Claim 7 or the peptide of Claim 1.

If Group II is elected:

- a) Election of a nucleic acid encoding either the peptide of Claim 7 *or* the peptide of Claim 1.

Applicant elects Group I, Claims 1-7, 13-17, 20, 21, 22, drawn to peptides, for examination.

Applicant also provisionally elects the following species, for examination purposes only; (a) peptide of SEQ ID NO: 24 (at least claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 26 readable thereon); and (b) the peptide of Claim 1 (at least claims 1-6, 13-17, 20, 21, 22, 25 and 26 readable thereon).

Applicant respectfully submits that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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